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Application No. 10/627,970
Amendment dated May 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 17, 2005

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1 to 26 and 28 to 35 remain in the application.

The Abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains legal terms, which should be deleted.

The legal term "said" (line 4) has been deleted. The new Abstract is believed free from any legal terms.

The incorporation by reference statement in paragraph [00028] has been amended to refer to U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0115054, which is the equivalent to European Patent No. 1,251,243. The incorporation by reference statement is now believed to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.57(f).

The typographical error noted by the Examiner at line 3 of paragraph [0006] has been corrected.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Paragraph [00030] has been amended to set forth that the deflector 48 causes the cooling air flow to swirl in at least a pair of smaller counter-rotating vortices, as recited in claim 8, as filed.

Paragraph [00029] of the description has been amended to set forth that at least a portion of the deflector extends from the first side at an acute angle.

Paragraph [00011] of the Summary of the Invention has been amended to set forth that the swirling nature of the coolant flow is substantially preserved. This language is now in line with the language used in claims 26 and 32.

Paragraph [00029] of the description has been further amended to set forth that the cooling air flow is not directly split but rather deflected away from sidewall 53a. This provides proper support for the language used in claim 28.

Finally, paragraph [00012] of the Summary of Invention has been amended to set forth that at least three cooling inlets are provided. The specification now provides proper antecedent

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basis for all the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been introduced into the application.

Claims 18 to 25 were only objected to because of a typographical error.

Claim 18 has now been amended, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 18 to 25 are, thus, now allowable.

Claim 13 has been slightly amended to correct the antecedent problem noted by the Examiner. This amendment does not narrow claim 13.

Claims 11 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hall (U.S. Patent No. 4,820,122).

Claims 11 and 16 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Balland (2004/0115054).

Claims 11, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United Kingdom Patent No. 2,225,063.

The above-mentioned rejections are herein traversed.

Claim 11 has been amended to introduce therein the subject matter of claim 12, which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. A portion of original claim 11 has now been moved into claim 12.

Claims 15, 16 and 17 are patentable, at least in view of their dependency from claim 11.

Claims 26, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United Kingdom Patent No. 2,225,063.

Claim 30 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Balland.

These rejections are herein traversed.

Claim 26 has been amended to introduce therein the subject matter of claim 27, which has been indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 27 has been cancelled.

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Regarding independent claim 30, it is respectfully submitted that United Kingdom Patent No. 2,225,063 is directed to an insert that is used to guide the coolant flow from the front of the disc 13 to the radial coolant duct 20, 12, 21 with low loss. As recognized by the Examiner, this patent does not teach rearranging a vortex structure.

In Balland's patent, the fins are aligned with the sidewalls. The fins are generally in line with the disc attachment slots and well away from the bottom wall and sidewalls of the disc attachment slot 14. The fins straighten the coolant air flow in the disc attachment slot. Balland teaches breaking the vortex structure of the coolant flow, which is contrary to the present invention, as recited in claim 30.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 30 is clearly patentable over these two cited references.

Claims 11 and 16 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall, in view of Fahndrich (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,636).

Claims 11 and 16 are patentable, at least for the reasons set forth above.

All points raised by the Examiner are believed to have been diligently addressed. Reconsideration of the objections raised by the Examiner, in light of the claims as presently submitted and the above comments, is respectfully anticipated.

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In the event that there are any question concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application can be expedited.


Respectfully submitted,

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By:

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Date


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